

House Resolution No. 2643

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives hold in high esteem those Show-Me State educational institutions in which students diligently seek the knowledge, skills, and experiences necessary to become lifelong learners and future societal leaders; and

Whereas, Southwood Elementary School has attained considerable distinction as a highly regarded component of the Raytown C-2 School District which educates nearly nine thousand students through the expertise of approximately six hundred fifty certificated staff at fifteen facilities; and

Whereas, Southwood Elementary School first opened its doors in 1954 under the stellar guidance and leadership of principal Louise Twiehaus, who was subsequently followed by Larry Hanner, Jimmy D. Ham, Willene Hinken, Laura Swartz, Sharon Moroney, and current principal, Dr. Keith Gurley; and

Whereas, first described as a “beautiful” and “up-to-the-minute” school, Southwood Elementary School was constructed in an open, Modernist style in which each classroom was self-sufficient with bathroom facilities, a clean-up sink, a heating system thermostat, and a wall of glass windows to allow in plenty of natural lighting; and

Whereas, colorful asphalt tiles decorated with animals, numbers, and letters enhanced the learning environment, and a principal’s outer office that was completely open to the entrance lobby symbolized the cutting-edge educational philosophy of the time; and

Whereas, Southwood Elementary School has undergone expansion and renovation down through the years to keep up with the demands of a growing student population; and

Whereas, Southwood Elementary School also has met the changing expectations of society through the introduction of air conditioning in the classroom areas, a modernization which required a reduction in the amount of glass used in outside walls:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-third General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the fifty-year-long success of Southwood Elementary School teachers, administrators, staff, and students and to convey to all of those involved this legislative body’s most heartfelt best wishes for a highly successful anniversary celebration; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of the Golden Anniversary of the opening of Southwood Elementary School in the Raytown School District.

Offered by _____
Representative Will Kraus
District No. 48

I, Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Ninety-third General Assembly, First Regular Session, do
certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House
Resolution No. 2643, adopted April 27, 2005.

Rod Jetton, Speaker